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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Occupational Employment and Wages in San Antonio–New Braunfels, May 2015

Workers in the San Antonio–New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$21.03 in May 2015, about 9 percent below the nationwide average of \$23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 15 of the 22 major occupational groups, including personal care and service; construction and extraction; and legal. No major occupational group in the local area had wages that were measurably higher than their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, San Antonio employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups including office and administrative support; food preparation and serving related; and personal care and service. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including production; management; and transportation and material moving. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the San Antonio–New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	San Antonio–New Braunfels		United States	San Antonio–New Braunfels	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾	
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		\$23.23	\$21.03	*	-9
Management	5.0	3.6	*	55.30	53.84		-3
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.4	*	35.48	34.29	*	-3
Computer and mathematical	2.9	3.0		41.43	40.42		-2
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.4	*	39.89	35.46	*	-11
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5	*	34.24	33.30		-3
Community and social service	1.4	1.0	*	22.19	20.77		-6
Legal	0.8	0.7	*	49.74	41.51	*	-17
Education, training, and library	6.2	6.4		25.48	24.09	*	-5
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.1	*	27.39	22.02	*	-20
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.1	*	37.40	35.24	*	-6
Healthcare support	2.9	2.8		14.19	14.26		0
Protective service	2.4	2.4		21.45	19.99		-7
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	10.8	*	10.98	10.43	*	-5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.1		13.02	11.25	*	-14
Personal care and service	3.1	4.3	*	12.33	10.02	*	-19
Sales and related	10.5	10.8		18.90	17.99	*	-5
Office and administrative support	15.8	18.0	*	17.47	16.45	*	-6
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	12.67	11.77		-7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	San Antonio-New Braunfels		United States	San Antonio-New Braunfels		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and extraction.....	4.0	4.0		22.88	18.91	*	-17
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	4.0		22.11	20.10	*	-9
Production	6.6	4.4	*	17.41	15.85	*	-9
Transportation and material moving.....	6.9	5.9	*	16.90	15.49	*	-8

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in San Antonio-New Braunfels is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group – office and administrative support – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. San Antonio had 170,100 jobs in office and administrative support, accounting for 18.0 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 15.8-percent national share. However, at \$16.45 per hour, the local average hourly wage for this occupational group was about 6 percent below the national average of \$17.47.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the office and administrative support group included customer service representatives (30,280), general office clerks (25,900), and secretaries and stock clerks and order fillers (13,300). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers, as well as executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, with mean hourly wages of \$26.67 and \$25.31, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks (\$10.33) and receptionists and information clerks (\$11.99). (Detailed occupational data for the office and administrative support group are shown in [table 1](#); for a listing of all occupations see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41700.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the San Antonio metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in a number of the occupations within the office and administrative support group. For instance, credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks were employed at 2.4 times the national average in San Antonio, and loan interviewers and clerks, at 2.1 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, stock clerks and order fillers had a location quotient of 1.0 in San Antonio, meaning that the local employment share in this occupation matched the national average.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area included 4,969 establishments with a response rate of 60 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Office and administrative support occupations	170,100	1.1	\$16.45	\$34,210
First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers	9,630	1.0	26.67	55,460
Switchboard operators, including answering service	800	1.2	11.58	24,090
Telephone operators	50	0.7	26.53	55,180
Bill and account collectors	3,290	1.5	16.26	33,810
Billing and posting clerks	4,080	1.2	15.76	32,790
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	10,410	1.0	17.91	37,250
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	1,350	1.2	17.53	36,460
Procurement clerks	890	1.8	21.20	44,090
Tellers	2,810	0.8	12.94	26,920
Financial clerks, all other	230	1.0	17.21	35,800
Brokerage clerks	680	1.7	25.37	52,780
Correspondence clerks	30	0.6	15.18	31,570
Court, municipal, and license clerks	820	0.9	15.95	33,170
Credit authorizers, checkers, and clerks	690	2.4	16.25	33,790
Customer service representatives	30,280	1.7	14.97	31,130
Eligibility interviewers, government programs	920	1.0	16.18	33,650
File clerks	1,220	1.3	14.99	31,180
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	1,890	1.1	10.33	21,480
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	690	0.6	15.90	33,060
Library assistants, clerical	470	0.7	11.50	23,920
Loan interviewers and clerks	3,080	2.1	19.87	41,340
New accounts clerks	400	1.2	15.61	32,470
Order clerks	1,580	1.2	14.93	31,060
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	1,340	1.4	18.15	37,750
Receptionists and information clerks	4,780	0.7	11.99	24,940
Reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks	1,290	1.4	16.09	33,460
Information and record clerks, all other	1,560	1.3	17.29	35,970
Cargo and freight agents	160	0.3	23.82	49,550
Couriers and messengers	620	1.2	15.93	33,140
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	560	0.9	17.62	36,640
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	1,490	1.1	18.22	37,900
Meter readers, utilities	190	0.8	18.79	39,080
Postal service clerks	310	0.6	23.73	49,360
Postal service mail carriers	1,670	0.8	24.61	51,180
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	600	0.8	24.62	51,200
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	2,670	1.3	18.82	39,150
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	4,030	0.9	13.89	28,900
Stock clerks and order fillers	13,300	1.0	12.33	25,650
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	530	1.1	13.49	28,050
Executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants	3,260	0.7	25.31	52,640
Legal secretaries	1,540	1.1	18.64	38,770
Medical secretaries	7,230	2.0	14.43	30,010
Secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive	13,630	0.9	15.61	32,470
Computer operators	310	0.9	15.85	32,970
Data entry keyers	1,570	1.2	14.11	29,350
Word processors and typists	180	0.4	19.05	39,620
Insurance claims and policy processing clerks	3,170	1.8	17.80	37,020

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	590	0.9	12.86	26,750
Office clerks, general.....	25,900	1.3	16.17	33,630
Office machine operators, except computer.....	480	1.1	13.50	28,090
Statistical assistants	(5)	(5)	18.95	39,420
Office and administrative support workers, all other	670	0.4	19.83	41,250

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_41700.htm.

(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

(5) Estimates not released.